

Application No.: 09/917,786

Docket No.: 1509-206

Amendments to the Abstract:

A substitute Abstract is attached.

ABSTRACT  
(replacement)

A data reader reads a medium holding user and non-user data that holds information relating to the user data. The reader has a read head that generates a data signal comprising user and non-user data. The user data is arranged into plural sets interspersed with the non-user data that identifies the user data within the sets. Processing circuitry receives and processes the data signal and obtains the user data from the data signal by using the non-user data to identify the user data within the data signal. The data reader is particularly suitable in situations having data re-writes and overwrites.

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